

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Margarets, we believe every child has been created to shine. Our values of **Love and Aspire** encourage children to recognise the unique light they have to share with the world. As Jesus said:

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

This year, we want to take that vision beyond our school and into our wider community through kindness, generosity and service. We are delighted to be supporting **Operation Christmas Child**, creating gift-filled shoeboxes for children around the world who may otherwise receive very little at Christmas.

Five Weeks of Shining

We will launch the project with a special assembly this Friday. Over the following five weeks, families who would like to take part can make **voluntary** donations linked to each week's theme:

- **Week 1 – Bathroom:** toothbrushes, flannels, combs, hairbrushes, compact mirrors
- **Week 2 – Stationery:** pencils, colouring pencils, pencil cases, notebooks, colouring books, felt tips
- **Week 3 – Clothing:** hats, gloves, socks, scarves, hair accessories
- **Week 4 – Toys:** small toys, games, balls, plastic animals, yo-yos, cars, frisbees, skipping ropes, puppets
- **Week 5 – Special Gift:** cuddly toy, doll, football and pump, toy car, or another small gift

We will also be collecting **good-quality shoeboxes with removable lids** throughout the project. If you have any spare shoeboxes at home, we would be very grateful if you could send them into school.

There is absolutely **no expectation** for families to contribute every week. All donations are voluntary, and every contribution, however small, can help make a difference.

Shine Our Light Day

At the end of the five weeks, the whole school will come together for a special **Shine Our Light Day**, where every child will be involved in packing our shoeboxes and celebrate the kindness and generosity shown by our community.

We hope this project will help our children understand that shining our light does not require grand gestures. Sometimes it is simply about giving what we can, serving others and showing kindness. When we do that together, we can make an even greater difference. We would love our whole school community to be involved in this project!

As we journey towards Christmas, let's be part of something bigger.

Let's shine our light together. Let's bring hope. Let's bring joy. Let's bring love.

Thank you for helping us make this a special experience for our children and for the children who will receive these gifts.